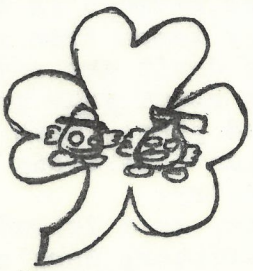
The Middle School Good Times

Paw Paw Middle School, Paw Paw, Mich. March 1980 15¢



MUSIC ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies - We have had three assemblies, all very much worthwhile. The 7th and 8th grade bands performed a concert for the whole school February 29.

The 7th grade played La Cucaracha, Songs of the Sea, Civil War Patrol, and Turkish March. The 8th grade played March of the Irish Guard, Cumberland Gap, Two German Dances, and the Theme from Superman.

The 7th and 8th grade choirs performed March 7. Outstanding performances were given by Michelle Dokey and Kim Kirshman on the song, Enough is Enough." The choir sang emotion-packed songs such as "Don't Cry Out Loud" while also including songs for fun like "Ja Da."

M.S.

The third assembly the middle school has seen in the last few weeks had to do with multiple sclerosis, MS. The Read-a-thon is underway. The deadline for reading as many books as possible is only a week away. Don't forget and keep on reading.

It's St. Patrick's Day already... and if that doesn't thrill and delight you, maybe the news that there are, after today, only 48 days of school left. Yup it's true and that includes only school days, of course. Don't forget that the 20th and 21st this week there is no school. Parents are invited to visit and talk with the teachers. Spring vacation runs from Good Friday, April 4 through April 13. School begins again on the 14th of April.

Conferences with parents will be held Thursday, 8- 12:00, and 1- 3:30. Also, Friday, from 8:00 -12:00, and Wednesday evening.

B'BALL and WRESTLING

The sports seasons for basketball and wrestling are finished now, but the following capture moments of those seasons.

We Blew It: a Basketball Poem

It was 0 to 4,
And it was our ball,
It was the first quarter,
The worst one of them all,

I grabbed the ball,
And it was no bluff,
I was burning mad
And goin' for a stuff.

The man who was guarding me
Was changed in the quarter,
The new man was better,
But he was even shorter.

It was the second quarter
And sixteen to two,
We were so fast,
It looked like they were standing in glue.

It was the third quarter
And twenty to sixteen,
They had come alive
And were wiping us clean.

(see p. 3)

DEAR EDITOR,

Last month we had a letter to the editor from a student complaining about the student council president, Mark Serbenski. The following are replies to that complaint.

Dear Editor,

In the first place, we (student council) haven't done everything; that's true, but the only reason we haven't is because we aren't getting any ideas from your sixth hour class. If we don't get any ideas, we can't do anything about your problems.

In the second place, Mark Serbenski, our president, didn't make any promises; he only said he'd try.

And believe me, as a friend of Mark's and as a fellow officer, Mark's trying very hard to make this school happy.

It is not easy to please five hundred people. You probably have only a few people to please and your parents, so take your letter and burn it!

And for the third and final reason, you the people had a choice. You picked him so if you're going to blame anyone, blame it on yourself.

Also, why don't you people who wrote the letter sign it properly.. like this?

Paul Higashi

Dear Editor,

We agree with the letter in last month's issue about Mark Serbsnki. We think he is unfit for the job of president of student council. He oftens puts things off until the last minute or he doesn't do them at all. He yells a everyone and bosses them around. He doesn't do things very well. Like at the last dance he only put up four streamers and didn't twist them. We know that there weren't very many people at the dance meetings, but they could have done a lot better.

Disappointed students

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to the letter written about me in the last edition of Good Times. I think that their feelings about me do not represent those of the ma-(jority of the people in our school.

If they do, nobody has approached me to say anything. I don't think that the letter was written because they didn't think I was doing my job. It was written because they don't like me personally. I also would like to say that if they thought they were so sure of themselves, why didn't they sign their names?

Mark Serbenski

(If you have any ideas to share or comments to make on any topic concerning middle school students, send it to Ms. Swanson, room 103, or place your letters in her mailbox in the office.)

THE GOOD TIMES
Editor: Debbie Haefner
Feature Editor: Audrey Hudson
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Reporters: Todd Bartholomew, Erin Thompson, Debbie McEndarfer, Jill Terrill, Ken Goodwin, Rita Howe, Bill Towle, Tina Mortimore.
Business Manager: Rita Howe
Advisor: Ms. Swanson
We meet most Wednesday in room 103 at 2:30. Join us.

DEAR SAMANTHA,

Dear Sam,

I am in love this one girl named _____. She broke up with me but I stilllove her. What should I do?

Truly your,
Mr. Lover

Dear Truly,

Hang in there. If she gets the idea, she may come back. Otherwise, forget her and try to meet someone else.

Dear Sam,

I am ugly . Help!

Dear H.,

Use deodorant and brush your teeth. This will make you popular, providing you choose the right brands.

P.S.- What's ugly? Look more at others and less into your mirror.

Dear Sam,

I have this problem. I have too many girlfriends and when I get serious with one, the others get mad or they come up to me and say"hi" right in front of the girl I'm going with. She probably thinks "Who in the world does he think he is?" But the girl I'm going with now doesn't think this and I feel guilty. What should I do? Should I break up and not go with girls or just try to fix-up my act?

(see p. 4)

poetry in sports

(continued from p.1)

It was the fourth quarter
And the coach was all afrost,
Forty to sixtten -
It was clear we had lost.

Evan Jones

The following was written about the wrestling match.

The Day of Death
Thursday will
smell like
crisp fresh
blood
with
death
hanging above my bed.
For Thursday
is the day I kill.
Thursday will be
dark with a misty
haze hiding
the moon
in the
morning
sky.

and
Thursday
is the day
my opponent
dies.

Dan Smith

The Life of a Shingle

I am a shingle on a house. It is scarey up on a rooftop, but I have a lot of friends. During a storm my friends and I have to hold on tightly or we will blow off. Even so, a lot of my friends end up on the ground. On days when it is sunny, we get awfully hot. My best friend is Mr. Chimney. He is very big and wise, but he is always smoking. The shingles on the left side of the house are lucky. They are shaded by a big oak tree. I like being a shingle because I can look out and see all the other shingles on the other house tops. I wouldn't trade being a shingle for anything in the whole world.

by B. Brooks

THE JAIL

I looked through the terible bars. at the free people on the other side. They were talking quietly to themselves and they looked up now and then to watch me.

I thought for a minute that maybe I could bend the bars and escape. I tried but I was too weak. The people came over to me. They offered me food, but I refused to take it. Maybe they would let me out if I didn't eat. They talked to me but I couldn't understand what they were saying.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were bending over their baby, talking.

"I wonder if Jonney likes his new playpen?" remarked Mrs. Thomas.

"I hope so," said Mr. Thomas, "But what is that strnage look on his face?"

Rina Schincariol

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

This month's opinion poll had the reporters asking "what is it that makes you happy?" The answers were varied.

Lacey Owens said," being best friends with Jami and Ralph and Randy Counterman." Mr. Kannegieter said," a good time." Paul Keenan replied, "a lot of pretty girls in bikinis." Lynn Stull said, "all A's."

Debbie Haefner said," being alone with Killer, without my family." Mr. Cassell said he's happy "when he sees other people are happy." Joe DePierre said, "girls." Beth Surdy replied" doing things and being best friends with Mindy."

Mrs. Kovach said " sunshine, smiles, and other people being happy." Mr. Suhusky said "my fiancee, playing in the Kalamazoo symphony , and seeing my students do a fine job." Frank Kuntz said "pay day." Paula Jones remarked" getting a horse ".

Mark Williams thinks "getting kissed by Donna Sommers " would make him happy. Rhonda Silcott said" seeing my boyfriend." Laura Howe thought that "eating weird combinations of food, such as peanut butter and jelly and cheese" would make her happy. Sue Wolownik doesn't think "anything right now" would make her happy.

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Happiness is - - -

Alan Richmond said,"Julie Kondor" makes him happy. Paul Higashi thought" money" would do it, while OraLee Gipson said,"food." Andy Baker said," Pam." John Kondor is happy when"pouring salt in Mike Rieck's hair?"

Lisa Wilson thought "moving to California" would make her happy. Mr. Stenner said,"life." Mike Rieck said,"telling about the'obseene ' things John Kondor does." Lynn Blasius said, "when Beth and I can wear our shirts." Pat Hope said,"Chris Heldak."

Mrs. Dobbs replied," having all my file folders empty." Ms. Weiss said," bright sunny days, smiling people, good and enthused students and life in general." Mr. Topp said," my family, young people, the outdoors." Mr. Edinger said, " a classroom full of A's"

Mary Wilkinson said," getting a martin card and having a light that goes on when she wants it." Tracy McNeil said," skating at Roller World." Patty Ross said, "seeing Greg Dorow forever." Matt Osment replied, " San Diego Beach in the summer." Jim Imus felt that" no school, no work, luxuries, outdoors, fun times," would keep him happy.

Bob Humphrey was happy when "Notre Dame beat DePaul 76-73." Winston Seals would be happy as"some kind of instructor." Biff Gyarmathy thinks he'd be happy " not to choke while eating the school lunches."

Joe Van Nus is happy "seeing Michelle Herwick." What makes you happy? Write and tell us. Mail to Ms. Swanson, room 103.

Shorter Week Wanted

Don't you think a five day school week is much too long? I think 30 hours a week in school is much too strenuous for the brain. Here is the way the week seems to go.

Monday - Long, long day. Like 12 hours instead of six. No one is awake after the week-end.

Tuesday- quick day, but nothing good ever happens on Tuesdays.

Wednesday- middle of the week slump (often test day)- bustling, busy.

Thursday- who cares? Here's a day we can surely do without.

Friday- whew! Thank God it's Friday!

(Continued from page 2- DEAR SAM)

P.S. I like to fool around but I really like the girl I'm going with.

Dear Fool,

You said it yourself -just turn your collar around and become a monk. Give it up or stick to one girl.

Dear Sam,

What do you do with a "friend" who only is a friend before and during a test? She's not an exceptional student but she chooses to copy from me because I'm in A.T. When the teacher is not watching, she reaches over, takes my test and looks at the answers! Don't tell me to talk to her because I refuse to hurt her feelings. I can't move across the room or tell the teacher. Help!

Signed- Why did I have to be born smart and shy?

Dear S. & S.,

Join the club. You could do what my friend did and give them a totally disgusted look. Also, you could be generous and say in your loudest voice, "if you need the answers that bad, here's my paper so you won't get eye strain." Your teacher is bound to pick up on your generosity.

Always consider the possibility of of writing in wrong answers for her to copy. Change 'em before you hand it in. Do you need her friendship? Sounds like it since you worry about hurting her feelings,yet she's running roughshod over yours. This is a friend?

Dear Sam,

I've got this problem and I need help. See, this person that I was going with and I broke up with, still likes me a lot. I'm just no interested in him any more. I have some other person who interests me. And he's interested in me. What should I do?

Mighty Confused

Dear Mighty Con,

You could always turn around and deck your old ex, but that could be

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(Dear Sam continued from p.4)

rather messy so I think it would be better really if you explained to him that you don't like him as a boyfriend any more. Consider suggesting that you could still be friends but that you are interested in someone else. That way, you won't hurt his feelings too much. In this kind of thing someone always gets hurt a little. Be honest always but kind.

Dear Sam,

I have a boy friend. He has almost asked me to go with him, but another girl likes him and he's caught between being popular and going with her an being plain and going with me. I know he's going to pick her so what should I do?

Puzzled Person

Dear Puzz,

If he chooses her, it'll hurt, but believe me, he's not worth it!

BLARNEY

(to be sung to the tune of"Deck the Halls")

" Tis the season to find gold,
Fa la la lala la la la.
When you get to the rainbow,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Dressed in your green apparel
Fa la la la la la la la.
You will find the leprauchann' mold
Falalala la la la la.
(after all these years, it can be told-
the pot at the end of the rainbow is
a pot of mold... green,ofcourse, not gold!)

TALE OF A RABBIT

Once upon a time, there was a scaley little toad who was always wishing to be beautiful. One day while the toad was sitting on a stump crying, his fairy god frog appeared.

The fairy god frog did not like to see the little toad cry so she told him that she would grant him one wish. But only if he came up with something good to do with it.

The little toad had always wanted to be a soft furry bunny so he clicked his flippers together three times and said three times "there's nothing like a bunny!"

All of a sudden, the toad was a six foot tall rabbit. Now every year at Easter the rabbit celebrates by bringing good little boys and girls Easter eggs.

RIDDLING

The following are some riddles from How Many 3-Cent Stamps ina Dozen? by Herman Hover.

1.You're the pilot of an airplane that travels from New York to Chicago - a distance of 800 miles. The plane goes 200 miles an hour and it makes one stop for 30 minutes. What is the pilot's name?

2.Can you arrange for Jane to stand behind Lee and Lee to stand behind Jane at the same time?

3. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?

4. If the Vice-President of the Unitd States should die, who would be President?

5. How many times can you subtract 2 from the numeral 21?

6. How close a relative would the sister-in law of your father's only brother be?

See below...

1. Whatever your name is.

2. Yes, back to back.

3. Legality has nothing to do with it since only dead men have widows.

4.The President.

5.Only once. After that, you're subtracting from 19, 17 and etc.

6. Very close since she'd be your mother!

UP IN SMOKE

The following essays were written in health classes to explain why people shouldn't smoke. The letters are part of a contest that Mrs. Mahanty's classes entered; they describe how students would try to persuade those they love to quit smoking.

I would say that the people who smoke should do it at home or in a private place because it bugs the heck out of nonsmokers. If you want to smoke so much then do it with people who do smoke and in a separate place. One room for smokers, one for non-smokers. . .I would ban cigerettes all together.

s.d.

I would like to see the companies make the kind of cigerette that has the least amount of nicotine and issue a pack to a customer a week. The customer could only buy one pack a week unless they went to a different store and bought one more pack. If they made the plant for people to have in their house or something similar, then the stores would make money and so would the tobacco growers. No one would out of a job.

d.t.

I think they should be allowed to ahve a tobacco industry because they could keep a lot of workers in business. On the other hand, smoking is hazardous to people's health. But then again, God did not say we should not smoke or he would not have made tobacco plants.

j.c.

I would explain very politely the good facts and bad facts. I would tell the tobacco people company that the cigerettes damage your lungs and kill healthy people and the environment. I would also put air conditioners and ashtrays in that would suck up smoke. That way the non-smokers in our world would not get polluted too. I also think the tobacco industry should be shut down.

j.k.

I would sit down and talk to them and tell them the bad reactions of smoking. This I would tell to the group who was for smoking. I would also promise them jobs if their industry went out of business. And if that doesn't get through to them, then I would tell them in a polite manner, whosoever is seen in this room buying a pack of cigerettes will be condemned for life.

To the group against smoking I will say the best thing to do is to encourage other people to stop.

s.c.

I would have the producers only produce a certain amount of cigerettes per year. Then when they ran out, everyone would have to wait til the next year. By then, maybe some will have quit smoking. Also if anyone was making them illegally, they'd have to be arrested.

r.g.

WHY SMOKE AT ALL?

Cigerette smoker should be thinking about their health. They should join the other 30 million ex-smokers in the U.S. and quit.

Do you know what gives cigeretes their taste? Butane, propane, hydrogen cy-,anide, and formaldehyde.(Taht's the stuff they use to kill and preserve dead animals.)

Do you have any idea how many chemicals in cigerettes are known to cause cancer? 30. There are 30 chemicals that are known to c ause cancer. What's the average life expectancy of a two pack -a-day smoker age 25? It is six years less than the life of a non-smoker.

Did you know how many ciggies it takes to boost your pulse rate. One. It only takes one cigerette to make your heart beat 25 times faster and the blood pressure to go up ten to twenty points.

Smokers are costing our country plenty. Smoking costs nine billion dollars in building and forest fires and higher insurance premiums.

Think about it. c.t.

dear mom,dad,friend,

Dear _____,

Have you ever thought about smoking, and what it does to your body and what itdoes to me? I don't know what you get out of smoking but I know what smoking takes out of you. For example, one cigarette takes 14 minutes of life from you. Did you know that when you exhale and I breath in the smoke, that I get 10 percent of the tobacco's dangerous gases and one of those dangerous in carbon monoxide. I don't enjoy breathing in the smoke.

Do you know smoking makes your heart beat faster, raise blodd pressure, and narrows the blood vessels? The rate of heart attacks among smokers is twice that of non-smokers. Smoking can harm you less if you would smoke lessof the cigerette, not all the way to the butt. The tobacco filters the nicotine and its more concentrated in last few puffs. Why smoke if it harms you and others? So try to cut down.